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1655

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Frank PORTUGAL

Group Art Unit: 1655

Serial No. 09/027,089

Examiner: J. Souaya

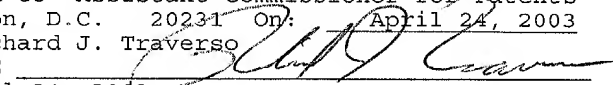
Filed: February 2, 1998

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MAY 01 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

For: METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING SPECIES OF SHIGELLA AND E. COLI USING
OPERON SEQUENCE ANALYSIS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the U.S. Postal Services as First Class Mail in an envelope
addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231 On: April 24, 2003
Name: Richard J. Traverso
SIGNATURE 
DATE April 24, 2003

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 24, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below and consider the remarks which follow.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 5, please delete the last paragraph inserted in the previous response which reads as follows:

--Figure 1 is an illustration of the ribosomal RNA operon on the E. coli chromosome. Each line marks the relative positions of one of the seven rrn operons found on the E. coli chromosome.

Figure 2 is an illustration of a ribosomal RNA operon.--

On page 10, after the second paragraph, please insert the following paragraphs:

--In another aspect, the present invention contemplates a diagnostic kit for screening a test sample for the presence of Shigella species or E. coli. Such a kit would contain a nucleic acid